

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

### THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

ELEVEN additional titles have been published in the History of Medicine series under the auspices of the Committee on Library Publications. These facsimile reprints of historically important texts have been especially adapted to the use of medical libraries. Each volume was prepared for publication by a scholar in the relevant field of study and is accompanied by his introduction to provide background for the text. The hard-cover books are published by and available from the Scarecrow Press, 52 Liberty Street, Metuchen, N. J. 08840; a check or money order should accompany the order.

No. 36. *The City That Was by Stephen Smith and The Report of the General Committee of Health, New York City, 1806*, with a preface by John Duffy, 1973. 326 pages, illustrated. \$10.00.

Dating from 1911, *The City That Was* by Stephen Smith provides a retrospective view of the public health problems that confronted the growing metropolis of New York in the middle of the 19th century. In the course of his long life (1823-1922) Dr. Smith was a leader in the public health reform movement that led to the creation of New York City's Department of Health. The book, long out of print, summarizes the problems of providing decent living conditions, sanitation, and health care for the poor and underprivileged. To this has been added *The Report of the General Committee of Health for 1806*. The two reports underscore the idea that the basic problems in public health change little from one generation to the next. The Preface is by John Duffy, who is Mary Alden Burke Professor of History at the University of Maryland.

No. 37. Rudolf Virchow: *Post-Mortem Examinations and The Position of Pathology Among Biological Studies*, with an introduction by Walter G. J. Putschar, M. D., 1973. vi + 129 pages, illustrated. \$7.00.

Towering among the great figures of 19th century medicine was Rudolf Virchow, who dominated the field of pathology and formulated the law of continuity of cellular life, *omnis cellula e cellula*. In the 1870s he published a practical instruction manual on autopsy technique and, with minor

modifications, the method is still used by modern pathologists to perform autopsies a century later. Also reprinted in this volume is Virchow's 1893 Croonian Lecture, "The Position of Pathology Among Biological Sciences" (delivered before the Royal Society of London), an autumnal reflection on progress in his field during his lifetime. The text is introduced by Dr. Walter G. J. Putschar, formerly professor of pathology at the Georg-August-Universität in Göttingen, Germany, now associated with the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston.

No. 38. Mayor LaGuardia's Committee on Marihuana: *The Marihuana Problem in the City of New York*, with a foreword by Hon. Raymond P. Shafer and an introduction by Dana L. Farnsworth, M. D., 1973. xii + 225 pages. \$8.50.

This is a reprint of the famous LaGuardia committee report, first published in 1944, the first scientific study to conclude that marihuana is little more than a mild euphoriant, that it is nonaddictive, not dangerous to health, and not *per se* a cause of criminal behavior. This was one of the first multidisciplinary studies of any medical problem, and included pioneer investigations by physicians, pharmacologists, psychologists, and sociologists. The committee's findings were unpopular because of the climate of public opinion at that time but have been endorsed by recent investigations, including the 1972 report of the President's Committee on Marihuana and Drug Abuse, of which Hon. Raymond P. Shafer was chairman. Dr. Dana L. Farnsworth, who wrote the introduction, is H. K. Oliver Professor of Hygiene, Emeritus, at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

No. 39. Emile Duclaux: *Pasteur, the History of a Mind*, with a foreword by René Dubos, 1973. 406 pages, illustrated. \$13.50.

Long out of print, this biography of Pasteur by his chief disciple and successor as head of the Pasteur Institute gives an account of how Pasteur's mind worked and how he went about defining and solving medical and biological problems. Concerned almost exclusively with Pasteur's discoveries, their intellectual genesis, scientific significance, and social relevance, this is a document in the history of ideas, an intellectual biography that takes the reader into the man's mind. This volume is a facsimile reprint of the 1920 English translation by Smith and Hedges. René Dubos of the Rockefeller University, one of this century's most brilliant microbiologists, provides the introduction.

No. 40. Alexander Walker: *Documents and Dates of Modern Dis-*

*coveries in the Nervous System*, with an introduction by Paul F. Cranefield, M. D., Ph. D., 1973. 195 pages. \$8.50.

Alexander Walker first suggested in 1809 that the roots of the spinal nerves had different functions. Unfortunately, he assigned sensory function to the anterior roots and motor function to the dorsal roots. Sir Charles Bell tentatively indicated in 1811 that the reverse might be the case, and François Magendie clearly demonstrated this a decade later. Walker conducted a long polemic to support his claims that he had been deprived of credit for his great discovery, insisting that Bell and Magendie had stolen his ideas and gotten the facts wrong to boot. In 1839 he published *Documents and Dates*, a collection of articles by himself and others dealing with the then-recent discovery of the spinal reflex. In this book Bell's *Idea of a New Anatomy of the Brain* was first made available to the general public; it also contained the original texts and excellent translations of Magendie's original articles. Regardless of Walker's anomalous position in the history of the controversy, it is a historically valuable document because source material from all parties are represented. Dr. Paul Cranefield, a distinguished physiologist and historian on the faculty of the Rockefeller University, introduces the material.

No. 42. *Great Men of Guy's*, edited, with an introduction by William B. Ober, M. D., and a foreword by Lord Brock, 1973. 416 pages, illustrated. \$13.50.

During the second quarter of the 19th century a brilliant constellation of physicians made Guy's Hospital in London famous as a center for teaching, research, and the care of patients. The names of Thomas Addison, Richard Bright, and Thomas Hodgkin are perpetuated in familiar eponyms, and their original articles—Addison on disease of the suprarenal capsules and a distinctive anemia, Bright on kidney disease characterized by albuminuria and edema, and Hodgkin on the distinctive lymphoma that bears his name—are reprinted in this volume. No less valuable are reprints of original articles by less familiar names—George Hilario Barlow's research on kidney disease, George Owen Rees' pioneer studies of blood chemistry, Golding Bird's classical analysis of cystinuria and his study of urinary calculi, Alfred Swaine Taylor's approach to a problem in forensic medicine, and the report by Sir Astley Cooper of early successful ligation of major aneurysms. Lord Brock, formerly professor of surgery at Guy's Hospital Medical School, was England's leading thoracic surgeon for a generation. Dr. William B. Ober is a pathologist and a historian on the

faculty of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York.

No. 43. *Burke and Hare: The Resurrection Men*. A Collection of Contemporary Documents Including Broad­sides, Occasional Verses, Illustrations, Polemics, and a Complete Transcript of the Testimony at the Trial, edited and with an introduction by Jacques Barzun, 1974. 388 pages. \$15.00.

Utilizing unique materials from the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine's Fenwick Beekman collection, this volume contains a complete contemporary account of the trial of Burke and his accomplices. It also includes a large sampling of popular songs, verses, cartoons, and other materials dealing with the infamous Edinburgh trial of 1828 which led to passage of the Anatomy Act of 1832. The act gave legal sanction to supplying bodies for anatomical study and no longer made it necessary for anatomists to rely on grave robbers. The book features a facsimile reproduction of a letter written by Burke to his jailer the night before he was hanged, one of the unique items among the treasures of the Library of the New York Academy of Medicine. Jacques Barzun, now emeritus university professor at Columbia University in New York is one of the most versatile scholars of our generation and an aficionado of stories of mystery, detection, macabre events, and other forms of art.

No. 44. *Thomas Dover's Life and Legacy*, edited and introduced by Kenneth Dewhurst, M.D., 1974. 220 pages. \$12.50.

This is a reprint of the sixth and last edition (1742) of the popular 18th century handbook, *The Ancient Physician's Legacy*. The book was written by Thomas Dover (1662—1742) when he returned to private practice in Bristol after a life crowded with incident, including privateering on the Spanish Main and even the imputation of piracy. Trained in medicine by the great Sydenham, circumstances led Dover to seek his fortune outside of medicine; he became an important figure in the South Sea Company, whose bubble burst in the 1720s.

Dover firmly espoused the value of mercurial compounds in therapy, hence his sobriquet, Dr. Quicksilver. Printed here for the first time and useful even today is his formula for Dover's powder, a mixture of ipecac and opium, which he recommended for fevers of all etiologies, known and unknown, mostly the latter. This is a pungently written book by a colorful figure. Dr. Kenneth Dewhurst, a well-known British medical historian and psychiatrist, introduces the work to modern readers.

No. 45. Herbert Mayo: *Anatomical and Physiological Commentaries*, with an introduction by Paul F. Cranefield, M.D., Ph.D., 1975. 302 pages, illustrated. \$12.00.

Published in 1822-1823 as part of the scientific discussion attendant upon the Bell-Magendie controversy, Mayo's book contains his report that the VIIth cranial nerve (the facial nerve) contains purely motor fibers whereas the fifth cranial nerve (the trigeminal nerve) contains both motor and sensory fibers. The book includes the first description and analysis of a reflex arc considered reasonably persuasive by modern criteria. Also included are Mayo's translations of J.C. Reil's classical studies of the anatomy of the brain. Dr. Paul F. Cranefield, one of this country's most distinguished physiologists and medical historians, is on the faculty of the Rockefeller University.

No. 46. William Farr: *Vital Statistics: A Memorial Volume of Selections and Writings of William Farr*, with an introduction by Mervyn Susser, M. D., and Abraham Adelstein, M. D., 1975. 608 pages. \$20.00.

William Farr served as statistician to the Registrar General's Office in England for 40 years beginning in 1839. After his death in 1883 his colleagues, especially Noel Humphreys, who had been his assistant, collected and edited his fugitive papers, *Vital Statistics*, first published in 1885, which became the cornerstone for modern epidemiological research. It is as basic to this discipline as was the work of Quetelet and Galton to biostatistics or that of John Snow, Pasteur, and Koch to the incrimination of specific agents of disease and other major advances in public health and infectious disease control during the latter half of the 19th century. Dr. Mervyn Susser is on the faculty of Columbia University's School of Public Health in New York City, and Dr. Abraham Adelstein is on the faculty of the University of London.

No. 47. *Confederate States Medical and Surgical Journal*, with an introduction by William D. Sharpe, M. D., 1976. 290 pages. \$22.50.

An essential document from the American past, the *Confederate States Medical and Surgical Journal* ran for 14 issues (January 1864 through February 1865) and is a great rarity in historical libraries. Less than a handful of single issues are available in any one collection. The present facsimile reproduction has been put together from several sources because of the worn type, inferior paper, small press run, and uncertain distribution of this journal, now among the rarest of printed medical Americana. Indispensable for an understanding of the medical problems faced by the

Confederacy during the Civil War, the journal also illustrates the high standards of personal and professional commitment by southern physicians under adverse circumstances. Dr. William D. Sharpe is director of laboratories at the Cabrini Health Care Center in New York City and clinical associate professor of pathology at New Jersey Medical School in Newark, as well as a classical scholar, medical historian, and editor of the *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*.

William B. Ober, M. D.  
Chairman, Committee on Library Publications